

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OIC-04 SS-20 NSC-10 /148 W

----- 015309

P R 181800Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2218

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T USNATO 4998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: KEEPING NEUTRALS INFORMED

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

SUMMARY: AT OCTOBER 18 SENIOR POLADS MEETING, UK PROPOSED THAT THE AD HOC GROUP IN VIENNA KEEP EUROPEAN NEUTRALS INFORMED OF MBFR DEVELOPMENTS. COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THIS QUESTION AGAIN ON OCTOBER 23. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON UK PROPOSAL. MISSION WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE VIEWS OF USDEL MBFR. END SUMMARY.

1. UK REP LOGAN INFORMED SPC THAT LONDON WAS CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE TROUBLE-MAKING ROLE BY NEUTRALS, IF THEY WERE NOT KEPT INFORMED OF MBFR DEVELOPMENTS. NEUTRALS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN THROUGH A WARSAW PACT REPRESENTATIVE, MIGHT EXPAND THE MILITARY SECURITY ELEMENT OF CSCE, OR MIGHT CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FORMAL CSCE-MBFR INFORMATION LINK. BEST WAY TO AVOID THESE DIFFICULTIES, IN UK VIEW, WOULD BE TO KEEP THEM BRIEFED THROUGH SOME ESTABLISHED CHANNEL IN VIENNA, PERHAPS BY MONTHLY BRIEFINGS BY CHAIRMAN OF ALLIED AD HOC GROUP. LOGAN
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SAID IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR AD HOC GROUP TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. UK WANTED NATO TO AGREE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF KEEPING NEUTRALS INFORMED.

2. BELGIAN REP AGREED WITH UK PROPOSAL, BUT FRG WANTED TO AVOID ANY OBLIGATION TO KEEP NEUTRALS INFORMED. FRG REP CONSIDERED THAT ANY FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIEFINGS WOULD SOON LEAD NEUTRALS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD SUCH A RIGHT. SPC CHAIRMAN KASTL SAID THAT SUCH A BRIEFING ARRANGEMENT WOULD NOT COMMIT THE AD HOC GROUP TO ANY SPECIFIC "QUANTITY OR QUALITY," AND THAT THE AHG NEED NOT GO BEYOND WHAT IT WAS PROVIDING TO THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ALLIES HAD AGREED TO A RELATIVELY OPEN PRESS POLICY.

3. LOGAN ADDED THAT THE NEUTRALS WOULD BE BADGERING THE ALLIES IN ANY CASE FOR INFORMATION. A REGULARIZED ARRANGEMENT WOULD ENABLE THE AD HOC GROUP TO COORDINATE THEIR LINE TOWARDS THE NEUTRALS. CANADIAN REP SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT NOT TO TELL DIFFERENT NEUTRALS DIFFERENT THINGS. ALLIES WOULD ALSO HAVE TO DRAW UP A LIST OF THOSE COUNTRIES TO BE INCLUDED UNDER THE HEADING OF "NEUTRALS."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04998
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqcectd.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <26-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: KEEPING NEUTRALS INFORMED
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO VIENNA
GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005